LESLIE BELL SINGERS' RE-UNION APRIL 26, 1960

ODE TO OUR "TWENTY-FIRST"

'Twas one and twenty years ago, Les Bell, a Parkdale teacher,
Did organize a choir of girls, which was a Parkdale "feature.
It wasn't long before they found that they were in demand
To entertain from coast to coast, B.C. to Newfoundland.

They visited the soldiers and some concerts they did share,
Camp Borden was a favourite spot - they liked to sing up there.
Assistant leader, Frederick Roy, would sometimes go along,
For he arranged some music too, and led the girls in song.

And since that time the choir has had a striking reputation,
And for each girl it sure has been a wonderful sensation.
The choir has worked with famous names like Waring and Giselle,
And it's all due to our conductor Doctor Leslie Bell.

Remember Waring's TV show - Celeste Holme was the guest -
We won't forget the dance he did of "Old Shoes" with Celeste -
And we sang 'Le Fiacre' and joined in a hymn as well
With all the Pennsylvanians - the hymn arranged by Bell.

That TV show made us a hit - at least in U.S.A.
Because we famous Singers all made "Time" the following day.
We visited Fred Waring's home - we loved his shoo fly pie -
We have some pleasant memories for he's sure a clever guy.

And then when we got back our choir was honoured by the city,
With flowery words of praise, but with no gift, which was a pity.
We've even made a National Film which won for us first prize,
As Italy some years ago this film did recognize.

The night we sang for Ellington we nearly went insane,
His band was O So Noisy (but they did serve us champagne).
Remember on the train that night we hadn't gone too far,
Before a wire from Gregoire came for Doc.Leslie Bellshoir?

Burl Ives came to rehearsal once, he sang for us as well,
The singing quite impressed him by the choir of Leslie Bell.
And with our Toronto Symphony, we always like to sing
At Christmas Box or Sunday Pops - or any other thing.

We're noted for "not breathing" - our breath we always hold -
"A choir that sings like angels" is what we have been told.
At Madison Square Gardens, we sang with all our might,
'Cuz there, and at the Forum too, to sing was a delight.

For many years on radio, we worked for CGE
With Howard Cable's orchestra - on network CBC.
Production was by Esse Ljungh, who timed so well the shows,
In fact, there hardly was a time it wasn't "on the nose".

And "Music Sweet Will Sing in My Heart" was our familiar theme,
And now we find its haunting refrain lingers in every dream,
And we would end our broadcast with a hymn arranged by Bell,
With soloist, Charles Jordan, joining in the hymn as well.

And then our own Joyce Sullivan became our singing star,
And on TV and radio, she's gone so very far.
Her famous actor husband, John Scott, announced our show,
And the popularity of our choir just seemed to grow and grow.

For years at many Churches, we did Star Concerts too,
And on the Ex's Bandshell, we looked so nice in blue.
We've even had police escorting us from show to show,
And so exciting it would be when through red lights we'd go.

Jack Travis drove us much by bus, we've travelled far by plane,
Exciting trips we've had at times in coaches on a train.
And lots can happen on a bus, we've even had to dress
When late, and in the winter time, when the floors are in a mess.

Remember all the medleys we liked so well to do,
The Fireman's Bride, The Echo Song, and Youppe, Youppe, too -
And Claire de Lune and Eili, and more recently Commercials -
Arrangements so exciting that we did enjoy rehearsals?

And for the Crippled Children and other charities too,
We've always been so willing our little part to do.
Our audiences have been kind and they've received us well,
Perfection was demanded by our leader, Doctor Bell.

So now that we have come of age - our birthday twenty-one,
We reminisce and realize we've had a lot of fun,
And at each year's re-union, fond anecdotes we tell,
Remembering all the pleasant years we've sung with Leslie Bell.

by Irene Warnock.